



**World  
Future  
Council**



**Future  
Policy  
Award**

## **For a toxic-free world: Nepal wins the prestigious Future Policy Award in the category "Amalgam Fillings"**

*Hamburg/Bonn, 29 September 2023:* Yesterday, the Nepalese Policy on Dental Amalgam Fillings was honoured with the Future Policy Award 2023 during a high-level award ceremony in context of the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) in Bonn, Germany. Also known as the Oscar on best policies, the award recognises laws that promote better living conditions for current and future generations. Each year, a policy field is selected in which innovative solutions are particularly important. In 2023, the prize is dedicated to policies for a pollution free world, regulating the use of hazardous chemicals in products, with a focus on children and their environment



H.E. Ram Kaji Khadka Ambassador of Nepal to the Federal Republic of Germany received the award for H.E. Mohan Bahadur Basnet, Minister of Health and Population from Ms Monika Stankiewicz , Minamata Convention

The Nepali law was honoured with the award as it is the first in Asia to ban the use of dental amalgam fillings for children under 15 years and pregnant and nursing women while aiming at a

complete phase out as soon as possible. Dental amalgam consists of approximately 50% mercury, a heavy metal toxic to the nervous, digestive, and immune systems, especially for developing children. Thanks to the law, most Nepali dentists have now shifted to alternatives like glass ionomer cement, significantly reducing the risk of mercury intoxication for both patients and dentistry staff.

"As a society, we are confronted with a multitude of crises, namely climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. To exacerbate the issue of pollution, harmful substances are incorporated into nearly all the products we rely on in our everyday lives, including dental amalgam fillings designed for our youngest members. It is crucial that we approach this matter with great seriousness and, above all, prioritize the protection of children from these harmful substances", says Alexandra Wandel, Chair of the Management Board of the World Future Council.

The award ceremony was livestreamed on the World Future Council's YouTube channel.

The award has been organised by the World Future Council Foundation since 2009 and this year the World Future Council is working with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) as well as the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) and the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) , to highlight policies for a toxic-free world that regulate the use of hazardous chemicals in products, with a focus on children and their environment.

Media contact:

Alexandra Wandel, World Future Council

Tel +49 172 748 39 53

### **Contact**

Julius Brede

Media & Communications Manager

World Future Council

Email: [julius.brede@worldfuturecouncil.org](mailto:julius.brede@worldfuturecouncil.org)

Tel: +49 40 3070914-0

### **About the World Future Council**

The World Future Council envisions a healthy planet with just and peaceful societies – now and in the future. To achieve this, we identify, develop, highlight, and spread future-just solutions for current challenges humanity is facing and award them with our unique Future Policy Award. Our Council consists of 50 eminent global changemakers from civil society, science, politics, and business. They meet annually at the World Future Forum to discuss the most urgent challenges and policy solutions to them. Jakob von Uexkull, the Founder of the Alternative Nobel Prize, launched the World Future Council in 2007.

This project was funded by the Federal Environment Agency and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection. The funds are made available by resolution of the German Bundestag. With the kind support of the Michael Otto Foundation.



The publisher is responsible for the content of this publication.

This project was funded by the Federal Environment Agency and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection. The funds are made available by resolution of the German Bundestag. With the kind support of the Michael Otto Foundation.

### **Partnerorganisations:**

About the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection:

<https://www.bmu.de/>

About the Umweltbundesamt:

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/>

About the Michael Otto Stiftung:

<https://www.michael-otto.info/en/>

About the Minamata Convention on Mercury:

<https://mercuryconvention.org/en>

